and other implementing agencies. For meeting future requirements of the water, as a long term measures, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking *inter-alia of* Himalayan Rivers for transfer of water from surplus areas to water deficit areas.

Meeting of Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on Almatti water

763. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Chief Ministers have decided to take on Almatti water;

(b) if so, whether the request of the Andhra Pradesh for release of 37 tmc. ft. of water from Almatti dam has been considered by the Karnataka Government;

(c) if so, to what extent talks have been fruitful;

(d) whether any concrete plan in this regard have been worked out; and

(e) if so, to what extent they are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) In view of the acute shortage of rainfall and very little inflows into the Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar reservoirs, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka during September, 2002 to release 45 thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC) of water from Almatti Reservoir to meet the drinking water requirements of people in Andhra Pradesh who depend on Krishna for drinking water. He again requested during December, 2002 to release 30TMC of water from Almatti.Reservoir to Andhra Pradesh for the same purpose. A high level

delegation led by the Minister for Major and Medium Irrigation, Government of Andhra Pradesh also visited Bangalore during December, 2002 with a request to spare water from Almatti for drinking water purposes. The Government of Karnataka has informed that they would examine the request of Andhra Pradesh keeping in view the demands of their State.

Search for water in various States

764. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Times of India under the caption "Expect water emergency in 2003" dated the 11th December, 2002;

(b) whether Rajasthan, Punjab, Orissa, Maharashtra etc. would face a gruelling search for water in 2003; and

(c) the action plan for water harvesting, water literacy, better data, centralization, etc. as suggested by Agricultural scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the content of the news-item "Expect water emergency in 2003" published in Times of India.

(b) Central Water Commission is monitoring the storage position of 70 important reservoirs of the country including 3 of Rajasthan, 2 of Himachal Pradesh, 6 of Orissa and 10 of Maharashtra. Of the above, available storage as on 14.2.2003 of two reservoirs of Rajasthan, 4 of Orissa and 4 of Maharashtra are much lower than the last 10 years a storage. Two reservoirs of Himachal Pradesh which are supplying water *inter-alia to* Punjab have storage of the order of 60% of the last ten years